

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CU, AO, MOPS, NO, PFOR

SUBJECT: CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: OSLO 1617

1. IN DISCUSSING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

2. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT CUBA INTENDS TO
WITHDRAW LARGE NUMBER OF TROOPS IN THE WAKE OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA. THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF CUBAN TROOPS MAY DIMINISH SLIGHTLY OVER THE NEXT FEW
MONTHS, BUT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE AN INFLUX OF CIVILIAN
TECHNICAL ADVISORS WHICH WILL AT LEAST PARTIALLY OFFSET
ANY REDUCTION IN MILITARY STRENGTH. IN ANY EVENT, CUBA
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WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MAINTAIN A SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY

PRESENCE IN ANGOLA FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 50-150 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT FIGURES UNCERTAIN. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORE ARE CONTINUING TO ARRIVE, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THESE ADVISORS

ARE WORKING WITH THE MOZAMBIKAN ARMED FORCES, WITH RHODESIAN NATIONALIST GROUPS, OR WITH BOTH.

4. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT CUBA'S ASPIRATIONS IN AFRICA WILL BE, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

--DEFEAT OF THE WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA;

--REMOVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL OVER NAMIBIA; AND

--EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE-DOMINATED REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. ALL OF THESE, PARTICULARLY THE LAST, ARE PROBABLY CONSIDERED LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES AND THE EXTENT OF CUBAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THEM WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON HAVANA'S JUDGMENT ON WHETHER THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED, AS WELL AS ON CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET POLICY, AND THE DESIRES OF BLACK GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA (E.G., MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA) AND THE INSURGENT GROUPS THEMSELVES. CASTRO IS UNLIKELY TO COMMIT COMBAT TROOPS IN A SITUATION LIKELY TO RESULT IN A HUMILIATING DEFEAT. MEANWHILE, CUBAN EFFORTS WILL PROBABLY BE DIRECTED AT IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION. KISSINGER

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